

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10 and 14-21 are pending in the application. Claims 2-3, and 11-13 have been canceled. Claim 21, replacing claim 11 is new. Claims 1, 4-7, and 14-17 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are supported by at least Figs 1-3 and pages 6-11 of the application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Amendment After Final be entered in accordance with 37 CFR §116 and MPEP 714.13 since the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 4 and 14 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 14 further limit the subject matter of the previous claim by reciting that notification occurs by E-mail. The Examiner further objected to claims 4 and 14 for being dependent upon cancelled claims 3 and 13, respectively. Applicant has amended claims 4 and 14 to depend on claims 1 and 21, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claims 4 and 14.

The Examiner also objected to claim 11 stating that the limitation "...notifying said client that there is the change..." should be deleted. Applicant has canceled claim 11 has replaced claim 11 with new claim 21 with the objected to limitation deleted. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claim 11 as applied to new claim 21.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,616 to Gassho et al. ("Gassho") in combination with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0133152 to Matsueda ("Matsueda '152").

Gassho et al. is directed to a printing system arranged on a network including: (1) a plurality of client computers, (2) a plurality of printers, each of which has a job status monitor unit and a printer status monitor unit, and (3) a print load distribution apparatus which includes a job status monitor unit and a printer status monitor unit. When a print job is sent from a client computer to a printer selected by the client, the print job is temporarily stored in the selected printer. The print job status monitor in the print load distribution apparatus receives an indication of the printer congestion (queue size) from the selected printer and if the congestion is high, transfers the print job to an available printer having a shorter queue not in an error condition. The management of the printers is transparent to the client computer and as the Examiner has stated, no notification is provided to the client computers about a change in shared printers.

Matsueda is directed to a printing system arranged on a network including: (1) a client apparatus, (2) a server and (3) one or more printers. In response to a print request from a client apparatus, the server instructs a printer to form a memory box for managing the job information in a memory apparatus of the printer. If the job information is successfully inputted and registered into the memory box, the client apparatus is notified of the inputted printer apparatus information and the memory box number (see Abstract and paragraph [0016]).

Figs. 4 and 5 and paragraphs [0064] and describe what is meant by “notification of printer management information”. In particular the notification (steps ST48, ST58) provided to the client occurs only at the time that the print job is successfully stored in the printer memory box. As shown in Fig. 6, step S74, the client is also notified that printing could not be performed on any printer again, at the time that the print job is queued for printing.

The present invention comprises a print server, a plurality of clients, at least one shared printer and a print server which uses a Windows™ operating system. An embodiment of the invention is directed to notifying the plurality of clients that sharing of a printer has been canceled. The embodiment utilizes the hook function in the Windows™ operating system such that at the time a change occurs in a printer folder created in the server by the operating system, the change is collated with a database of shared printer information stored in the server. If the

change indicates that a shared printer has been deleted from the network, an immediate notification is sent to the client computers along with the name of the printer that has been deleted. If the shared printer is replaced by a new printer having a different name, notification of the name of the new printer is sent to the client computers.

Amended claim 1 recites:

A print system which processes print requests from a plurality of clients for printing on a printer comprising:

a storing unit which stores printer information about the printer, the printer information representing whether the printer can be shared by the plurality of clients:

a printer monitoring unit which receives the printer information from the printer at times unrelated to processing of a print request from the plurality of clients, compares the received printer information with printer information corresponding to the printer previously stored in the storing unit, and if on the basis of the comparison, the monitoring unit determines that the received printer information is different from the stored printer information, the monitoring unit further determines that the stored printer information is invalid and cancels sharing of the printer; and

a notifying unit which, in timely response to the monitoring unit canceling the shared printer notifies said plurality of clients that the sharing of the printer has been canceled, the notice including a name of the canceled printer.

Gassho et al. merely transfers a print job to another printer when the printer to which the print job has been queued is not available or is overloaded and does not teach or suggest notifying the client when a printer has been deleted from the network. Matsueda notifies a client only when an error occurs that prevents the printing of a print job at the time the print job is queued to the printer and does not notify the client when a change of a printer previously set for sharing is deleted from the network. Consequently, the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, does not make amended claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 1.

New claim 21, is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho and Matsueda '152, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,162,449 to Drummond et al. ("Drummond").

Claims 4 and 14 depend respectively from allowable claims 1 and 21. As discussed above, the combination of Gassho and Matsueda do not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1 and 21. Drummond teaches that e-mail may be used to send a message to a particular address when a particular condition occurs. Drummond does not make up for the deficiencies of Gassho and Matsueda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 4 and 14 based at least on their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 21.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho and Matsueda '152, and further in view of Matsueda '152.

Claims 5 and 15 depend respectively from allowable claims 1 and 21. As discussed above, the combination of Gassho and Matsueda '152 do not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1 and 21. Matsueda '152 paragraph 0020 does not make up for the deficiencies of Gassho and Matsueda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 4 and 14 based at least on their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 21.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho and Matsueda '152, and further in view of Drummond.

Claims 6 and 16 depend respectively from allowable claims 1 and 21. As discussed above, the combination of Gassho and Matsueda do not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1 and 21. Drummond teaches that e-mail may be used to send a message to a particular address when a particular condition occurs. Drummond does not make up for the deficiencies of Gassho and Matsueda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 6 and 16 based at least on their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 21.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho and Matsueda, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179404 to Matsueda ("Matsueda '404").

Claims 7-10 and 17-20 depend respectively from allowable claims 1 and 21. As discussed above, the combination of Gassho and Matsueda do not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1 and 21. Matsueda '404 does not make up for the deficiencies of Gassho and Matsueda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 7-10 and 17-20 based at least on their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 21.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application including claims 1, 4-10 and 14-21 is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the Final Rejection, formal entry of the present "Amendment After Final," and issuance of a Notice of Allowability of claims 1, 4-10 and 14-21 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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